

Make Sure You're Ready to Welcome Your New Pet!



Do you remember how hard it was to make new friends as a kid? How you felt left out and alone? It's hard on a new pet too. Puppies and kittens don't understand the excitement of the holidays - they only feel alone. The holidays are not the best time to adopt a new pet.

Before you decide to bring a new pet into your home it is important to make sure that you are ready for their arrival. You will need to prepare for your new pet. You'll need time to get to know your pet, a place for it to sleep, and supplies such as a bed, food, a collar and leash, brush, toys and other things.

You will need to pet proof your home. Christmas items like ribbons, bows, icicles, Christmas trees, ornaments, chocolates, poinsettias, and other holiday decorations can be harmful to a pet. New pets who don't know their boundaries yet have an especially hard time. Don't set your pet and yourself up for trouble by bringing a pet to a home filled with traps.

You will need to stay with your pet. The first several weeks are critical in getting to know and trust a new family member, whether animal or people. Animals need to learn to trust and obey their new owners. If you are gone for hours or days to parties or holiday vacations, it will be much more difficult for your new pet to fit in to your family. Be sure you have time to get acquainted.

As you can see the holidays are not the best time to bring home a new pet. Give your new dog or cat a good welcome into your family by waiting until the holiday pressure is over. Bring your new pet home when you are prepared. When you are ready, we encourage you to adopt a homeless animal from one of the local county animal shelters listed below:

Rancho Cucamonga Animal Shelter ☐ ☐	Devore Animal Shelter ☐	Big Bear Animal Shelter
11780 Arrow Route ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	19777 Shelter Way ☐ ☐	Northshore Drive/Stanfield Cutoff
Rancho Cucamonga, CA ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	Devore, CA ☐ ☐ ☐	Big Bear City, CA
(909) 466-PETS ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	(909) 887-8055 ☐ ☐	(909) 866-4943

San Bernardino County
Animal Care & Control Program
(800) 472-5609

